

The Writer's Life

www.sdwritersguild.org

November, 2015



Happy Thanksgiving

"Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: it must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all." William Faulkner (1897-1962)

Attorney Martin Kruming, will speak on the topic of legal challenges facing writers and editors in the digital and social media era. Kruming, a San Diego attorney, and faculty member at San Diego State University, is the editor of the *San Diego Lawyer Magazine*. He has previously chaired the Marketing Committee of the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization. Kruming has been the recipient of the Bernard Witkin Award from the Law Library Justice Foundation, which honors members of the San Diego legal community for civic leadership, teaching, practice, and adjudication of the law. He currently writes a column titled "Connections" for San Diego Metro and the North Park News.



And . . .

2015 Anthology Book Launch

It's here! *The Guided Pen, 4th Edition* will be unveiled at our November 23rd general meeting. Whether you have a taste for humorous whimsy, poignant memoir, amusing and startling historical facts or creative non-fiction, this issue is a delight from cover to cover—a dazzling credit to our talented contributors. Books are \$15. All funds support the SDW/EG and its efforts to promote the writing arts for youth and adults. A group photo of 2015 contributing authors is planned for 6:30 P.M.

2016 Local Authors Exhibit

The San Diego Public Library will hold the annual exhibit of books by local authors in February at the downtown library at 330 Park Blvd. Books published in 2015 may be submitted by the author for inclusion in the exhibit. Authors with books published in December should complete registration for the exhibit and send a copy of your book as soon as it arrives.

The deadline for registering and submitting your book and a cover image is Monday November 16, 2015.

Each author may submit one book; if a book is published in print and electronic form, submit the print copy.

For more information: Call (619) 236-5841 or email localauthor@sandiego.gov. Go to www.sandiegolibrary.org for registration forms.

Mail your book to:

San Diego Public Library
Attn: Rachel Esguerra
330 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-7416

Election of New Members of the SDW/EG Board of Directors

Having five vacancies and five candidates, the election of new directors was held by voice vote at the October general meeting. Newly elected members of the Board of Directors include: Simone Arias, Dave Feldman, Anne Janda, Mardie Schroeder, and Val Zolgapari. See page four for contact information. All Board members will attend the next Board Meeting on November 10, 2015; 5:30 PM., at which time officers for 2016 will be elected. Contact Marcia Buompensiero for directions at lonzahn2@cox.net.

New: SDW/EG email Account

The Guild has a new email account that will be monitored by Sandra Yeaman, webmaster. The new email address is

sandiegowriterseditorsguild@gmail.com.

Board members may also be reached at their individual email addresses (see page four).

A Tip of the Hat To . . .

Gary Winters for having his poem *Alcatraz Prophecy*, and a tanka, *Jihmye*, accepted for the San Diego Poetry Annual 2015-16.

Charlotte Thompson for the good reviews for two recent books: *Your Personal Parenting Guide* and *Prescription (Rx) for Parenting* and her new blog www.RxforParentingToday.com.

Joanna Charnas for book signings, Huffington Post blogs, favorable reviews, and radio and TV interviews about her new book *Living Well with Chronic Illness*.

Joe Bonpensiero, who was featured in an article in the San Diego Reader 10/22/15 and was interviewed by Tom Harley, Channel 3 NBC News, in Las Vegas about his book *Niputi, The Nephew – Life Under the Shadow of a Mafia Killer*. The Reader article is at: <http://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2015/oct/21/feature-mobsters-nephew/>

Gerald Beeby, Lawrence Carlton, Tom Leech, and Muriel Sandy for having their submissions published in the Fall 2015 *OASIS Journal*.

Phil Pryde for having his book *San Diego: An Introduction to the Region* selected by the San Diegito River Valley Conservancy as the text for a class.

William Barrons for the publication of his fourth book, *The Forever Homicides*, published by SDW/EG member Rick Lakin, iCrew Digital Publishing.

Larry Edwards, SDW/EG author, editor and publisher, for marketing *Murder Survivor's Handbook* at the National Crime Victims Center conference and placing an ad for *What the Private Saw* in the fall catalog from the Independent Book Publishers Association, which goes to libraries and book sellers.

Ruth Leyse-Wallace for receiving an invitation to present at the "Nutrition and the Brain" seminar at Patton State Hospital on the subject of her book *Nutrition and Mental Health*.

What You Missed . . .

. . . by **Mardie Schroeder**

Richard Lederer is always entertaining and he didn't disappoint. His "Fascinating Facts About Our Presidents" was chock full of interesting tidbits and elicited audience participation. But he began his presentation with a sonnet he wrote which credited Shakespeare for his prose mastery of the English language.

In no particular order, we learned: the office of presidency is one of the most enduring forms of government, beginning with George Washington; Ronald Reagan missed being in a movie about a president because he didn't look presidential enough (or so thought Hollywood); and the 44th president (Obama) is really the 43rd because Grover Cleveland was listed twice.

Mr. Lederer pointed out that very few American citizens can name the first six presidents in order; in what century the American Revolution occurred; who we fought against; and who won the Civil War. But 100% knew who Brad Pitts' first wife was (Jennifer Aniston).

Two presidents died on July 4th in the same year (1826)—John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

Theodore Roosevelt was the youngest president but John F. Kennedy was the youngest elected president. T. Roosevelt was the first president to invite an African American to the white house (Booker T. Washington). The oldest president was Ronald Reagan—almost 70. The average age of our presidents is 55.

Does size matter? The tallest: Abraham Lincoln, 6'4"; the shortest: James Madison, 5'4" at 100 pounds; the heftiest: William Howard Taft, 6' at 300+ pounds. Taft was the only person to have presided over both the executive and judicial branches of the government: Chief Justice of the U.S. and Solicitor General.

Finally: John Quincy Adams was the smartest president with an IQ of 168; eight out of the first nine presidents were born a British subject; Martin Van Buren spoke Dutch as his first language.

Thankfully, no test was given at the end.

NaNoWriMo

National Novel Writing Month

NaNoWriMo is an international non-profit organization that promotes writing with a National Novel Writing Month each November. Participating writers take on the challenge of writing 50,000 words between November 1st and 30th.

Guild members Amy Zajac and Sandra Yeaman will be participating this year. Way to go !

The NaNoWriMo website provides resources and support for participants as well as donated prizes. The prizes are mainly assorted discounts on services such as programs for writing, publishing, and marketing your work.

January and February are called the “Now What?” months and are used by authors for revisions and the publishing process.

For more information go to:

<http://nanowrimo.org/how-it-works>.

Print vs e-Books Sales Swing

Between 2008 and 2010 e-book sales rose 1,259 %. Analysts predicted e-book sales would overtake print books by 2015. However, during the first five months of 2015 e-book sales fell 10%.

Digital books are about 20% of the market. E-book subscription services and sales of e-readers have plummeted.

The number of bookstores are up from 1,410 to 1,712 in the past five years. An established book store in Austin reports sales of book are up ~11%.

Is this just a pause or a trend? Will readers want to read on smartphones or tablets? Stay tuned. Source: SD-UT 9/27/15

New for 2015, Says Oxford Online

A few examples of new words added to the Oxford Dictionary Online:

Awesomesauce: excellent or extremely good.

Onboarding: integrating a new employee or customer to an organization’s products or services.

Hangry: irritable as a result of being hungry.

Upcoming Writing Conferences

SDSU Writers Conference will be held January 22-24, 2016 at the Marriott Mission Valley San Diego.

San Francisco Writers Conference will be held February 11-14, 2016 at the Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco.

Writers Symposium By the Sea at Point Loma Nazarene University will be held February 18-19, 2016.

Writing Feature Stories

When writing a well-rounded story, cover these points, even if they don’t all receive equal attention:

- What is happening: the 5 W’s: who, what, when, where, why, and How.
- Context: background, history, trends
- Scope: is the issue local, national ?
- Edge: What’s going to happen? Where is it leading?
- Impact: Who cares and why? Why is it newsworthy?

Source: Kerrie Flanagan, Nov/Dec 2015 *Writers Digest*

A big “**Thank You**” to **Marie DiMurcurio** for assisting at the sign-in table at the general meetings.

Coming Soon: Member Survey

The Board of Directors will soon be conducting a member survey to help plan future programs and events. Please watch for the survey at the sign-in table, in the newsletter, or on the website www.sdwritersguild.org and contribute your feedback and opinions

Mark Your Calendar

December 21st (3rd Monday) – Holiday party for members and invited guests; 6:00 - 9:00 PM at the usual meeting place. Bring an hors d’oeuvre or dessert to share.

January 25th, 2016 – Gered Beeby will speak on “Writing Creative Non-fiction.”

San Diego Writers/Editors Guild
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Meetings: The Fourth Monday each month
General Meeting:
6:30 PM- Sign-in/Network
6:45 PM - Business Meeting
7:00 PM - Speaker/Program

December meeting: 3rd Mon – Dec. 21st

Marketing Support Group: 5:30-6:30 PM

Location: San Diego County
Health Services Complex
3851 Rosecrans, SD, CA 92110

For a map see: www.SDWritersGuild.org

Membership: \$36.00 per year
Guests: \$5.00 per meeting

Mission Statement

The San Diego Writers/Editors Guild shall promote, support, and encourage the writing arts for adults and youth.

Board of Directors		2-Year Term Expires 12/31
Acting President	Bob Doublebower doublebower@sbcglobal.net	2016
Vice-President		
Secretary	Simone Arias sarias2@earthlink.net	2017
Treasurer	Marcia Buompensiero lonzahn2@cox.net	2016
Membership Chairman	Rick Peterson richard.g.peterson@navy.mil	2016
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